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1939

Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Rural District

OF

Mitford and Launditch

EAST DEREHAM:

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MITFORD & LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1939.

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (Acres)	...	...	...	102,371
Population, (Census 1931)	...	...	...	17,107
Population, (Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1939)	...	...	...	16,620
Number of inhabited houses, (end of 1939)	...	...	...	4,978
Rateable value	...	...	...	£34,507
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£170

The chief industry carried on in the area is Agriculture. Unemployment has not been a serious factor and there was little during the latter half of the year.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The estimated population for 1939 is 10 higher than last year's figure and 485 less than the census figure for 1931.

The number of inhabited houses has risen by 216 during this period.

Births outnumbered deaths by 7.

			Total	M	F
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	226	127	99
	{ Illegitimate	..	19	15	4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.74

			Total	M	F
Still Births	{ Legitimate	...	9	6	3
	{ Illegitimate	...	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births: ... 42.96

	Total	M	F
Deaths	238	127	111
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 14·32			
Deaths from Puerperal causes :			

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	2	7·81

Death rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	... 48·97
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	53·09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 33
„ „ Measles (all ages)	... Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... 1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... 1

The Birth Rate, (14·74), is 0·3 higher than in 1938 and 0·3 lower than the rate for England and Wales.

The average birth rate over the last decade was 14·81 as compared with 22·54 for a similar period 30 years ago.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 8 in the previous year, giving a rate of 48 per 1,000 births. This rate is slightly less than the National average, which was 50 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate has fallen by nearly half during the last thirty years, the average rate for the last decade being 54 per 1,000 births as compared with 104 per 1,000 during the decade ending 1909.

The Death Rate, (14·32 per 1,000 pop.), is 2·16 higher than in the previous year and 2·2 higher than the rate for England and Wales.

In order to make the rate for individual areas comparable with that for the Country as a whole, the Registrar General provides an adjusting factor for each area to make it comparable with the crude death rate for the country as a whole. This factor allows for dissimilarly constituted populations and represents the population handicap to be applied to individual areas.

The adjusting factor for this area is 0·75 and the modified rate works out at 10·74, which is 1·4 less than the National average, viz. 12·1.

The average death rate for the last ten years was 13·0 as compared with 14·6 over a similar period thirty years ago. When comparing these figures, it must be realised that the average age of the population has been steadily rising during the present Century.

It is noteworthy that, of the 238 deaths, nearly 56 per cent. were of persons over 70 years of age, viz.:

		Total	M	F
70-80	...	73	40	33
80-90	...	53	30	23
Over 90	...	7	1	6

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector, who is a certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and a Housing Officer.

In September an emergency laboratory was opened at Gresham's School, Holt for the bacteriological investigation of epidemics and the assistance of Medical Officers of Health in this respect. Since mid-November, this service has been available at Cambridge. It has not been found necessary to take advantage of this organisation.

Early in the year the District Council inaugurated a scheme providing for immunisation against Diphtheria, two doses of A.P.T. being given at monthly intervals. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of this scheme.

As a war-time measure, the existing accommodation at the County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has been increased to enable the hospital to accept an additional 36 patients, making 96 beds in all.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
 OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER.

Bores were sunk to a depth of 120 ft. at Litcham and 180 ft. at Colkirk to supply houses erected by the District Council.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Lyng sewer.—Subsoil drains laid on stones have been substituted for the first 100 ft. This should materially improve the condition of the ditch lower down.

The following sewers were cleaned out by the Council during the year :

Bawdeswell	Litcham
Scarning	Lyng

New systems of drainage and disposal plants were provided by owners in six cases with the advice and approval of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

3 vault privies were converted to pail closets during the year as a result of informal action by the Council.

During the last 12 years, 375 vault privies have been converted to the pail system.

(4) SCAVENGING.

Scavenging schemes are provided by the Council at Litcham, Shipdham and Lyng, all being carried out by Contract. The approximate number of houses served is 80, 180 and 120 respectively.

(5) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nuisances detected	...	...	12
Nuisances abated	...	...	10
Disinfections ...	...	...	41
Notices served :			
Preliminary	...	...	20
Statutory	...	...	45

Sec. D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year :

(i) By the Local Authority	...	70
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	4

Of the 70 houses in (i), 50 were provided for slum clearance, 12 to relieve overcrowding and 3 for general needs. They were divided amongst the various parishes as follows :

Scarning	...	12	Lyng	...	4
Shipdham	...	10	Beetley	...	4
Litcham	...	10	Cranworth	...	4
Little Dunham		8	Weasenham St. P.		4
Stanfield	...	6	Bintree	...	2
Horningtoft	...	4	Wendling	...	2

8 of the houses have four bedrooms and the 4 houses at Cranworth are provided with baths.

All four houses in (ii) were bungalows.

A further 14 houses were in course of construction by the District Council during the year.

14 Demolition Orders were made by the Council during the year but did not become operative owing to the outbreak of war.

A report upon 30 more properties recommended for demolition was prepared by the District Medical Officer of Health, but the onset of war prevented any action being taken.

The District Council has now provided a total of 339 houses under the Housing Acts, viz. 131 for Slum Clearance, 41 for relief of Overcrowding and 167 for general needs.

The houses are divided amongst the various parishes as follows :

Shipdham	...	44	Lyng	...	16
Scarning	...	24	Tittleshall	...	12
N. Elmham	...	18	Garvestone	...	12
Hockering	...	18	Mattishall	...	12
Litcham	...	18	Bawdeswell	...	11

Sparham ...	8	Gt. Dunham ...	6
Swanton Morley	8	Foxley ...	6
N. Tuddenham	8	Bintree ...	6
E. Tuddenham	8	Mileham ...	4
Yaxham ...	8	Billingford ...	4
Wendling ...	8	Gressenhall ...	4
Beeston ...	8	Hardingham ...	4
Whissonsett ...	8	Horningtoft ...	4
Beetley ...	8	Cranworth ...	4
Elsing ...	8	Weasenhams St. P	4
Lt. Dunham ...	8	Colkirk ...	4
Guist ...	6	Gateley ...	4
Stanfield ...	6		

6 houses at North Elmham and 6 at Shipdham are of the parlour type, the remainder being of the non-parlour type. 30 have four bedrooms and the remainder three, all being provided with drainage for sink waste.

There has been some adjustment of rents during the year. The 12 parlour-type houses are let at 6/- per week. Of the remainder, one is let at 5/-, 21 at 4/9, 27 at 3/6 and the rest at 4/6.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1938.

The provisions of this Act have been advertised throughout the District and 12 further applications were received during the year, making a total of 130 since the Act came into force.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

16 applications, relating to 32 houses, were received for assistance under this Act during the year. Grants of two-thirds of the cost of the work were made in all cases.

51 grants have been made by the Council since the Act came into force.

SCHOOLS.

There are 34 elementary schools in the district. Following upon representations made to the governing body by the District Council, certain repairs to the school buildings at Weasenhams have been carried out.

Litcham school is provided with water closets, one school has the dry-solid system and the remainder have pails.

Water supplies are as follows :

Pipe supply	...	...	1
Draw wells	...	...	18
Pump wells	...	...	13
Carted from neighbouring source	...		2

Housing work carried out by Sanitary Inspector :

Plans of new houses approved	..	4
Plans of building improvements passed		2
Visits for purpose of supervising building		108

Certain improvements have been made in the sewage disposal arrangements provided for the Council houses erected since 1938, as these had not proved satisfactory.

New building byelaws, based upon the Ministry's latest model byelaws, have been passed by the Council and were approved by the Ministry in September.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	33
(ii) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	11

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	2
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

(a)—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1938 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	10
---	-----	----

(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	10
(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
4. <i>Housing Act (1938), Overcrowding : —</i>		
(a) (i)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of the year	14
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	14
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	98
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	81

7 cases of overcrowding involving 31 persons were abated during the year by re-housing under slum clearance.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Early in September, 10 adults and 83 children were billeted upon householders in the District.

Saham Hall, near Watton, was staffed and equipped by the County Council as an emergency maternity hospital with accommodation for 27 patients.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Number of registered cow-keepers and purveyors of milk :

(i) Wholesale	...	...	...	293
(ii) Retail	...	...	...	24
Number of registered cowsheds and dairies			...	301
Cowsheds reconstructed	...	...	...	8
Cowshed inspections	...	...	...	301

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 & 1938 :—

Number of registered producers of Accredited Milk :

(i) Wholesale	...	...	...	64
(ii) Retail	...	...	...	4

Inspections by Sanitary and Food Inspector :

Visits to farms and dairies	...	...	421
Samples taken for testing	...	...	267

Four licences were temporarily withheld.

(b) Meat :—

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned by the Sanitary & Food
Inspector :—*

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & L.	Pigs
Approx. No. killed (including cows)	————	————	9,000	————	————
No. inspected ...	4200	200	120	350	400

All diseases except tuberculosis :—

Whole carcasses					
condemned	1	4	—	7	20
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	2	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with disease other than tubercu- losis ...	Under 1%	3	—	2	5

Tuberculosis only:—

Whole carcasses					
condemned	2	4	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with tuber- culosis ...	Under 1%	2'5	Under 1%	Under 1%	1'7

Number of registered slaughter-houses ... 14

Number of licenced slaughter-houses ... 11

Number of registered horse-slaughterers ... 21

33 licences to slaughter have been granted in the District

(c) Other Foods:—

Number of registered bake-houses ... 24

Food shops inspected ... 90

Bake-houses inspected ... 21

*Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES*

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	4	Nil
Diphtheria	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1
Pneumonia	5	Nil	6
Erysipelas	2	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	22	Nil	1

There was one death from Cerebro-Spinal fever which was not notified.

AGE GROUPS.

AGE GROUPS (years)	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	2	2	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	2	4	2	11	1	1	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
5 — 15	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	5	2	3	2	—	2

3 of the fatal cases, one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary, had not been notified before death.

At the end of the year there were 139 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 74 respiratory and 65 non-respiratory.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

